

Maine Arts News, Events, & Opportunities

February 2022- Augusta, Maine



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Dear Friends,

This week we have been told to expect temperatures reaching 60 degrees, and 48 hours later we'll get around 6 inches of snow. Oof. On a social media platform, someone wrote "I'm getting very tired of living through 'interesting' times." I suspect many of us would agree with that sentiment.



But spring is coming! And here at the Maine Arts Commission, and for many organizations around the state, the onset of spring means it's grants time. For MAC, our grant deadlines and processes are designed to align with the start of our fiscal year, July 1st. That's when our annual funding arrives. We get all the moving parts in place so that the Commission can approve the process and funding at their meeting on the second Tuesday of July. With that we can start the process of awarding grants.

Our team has been working hard to streamline the process of applying, make the review process more transparent, and create efficiencies between our agency and the Department of Accounting and Financial Services (DAFS) - who handles our money - to ensure that checks are cut and mailed as quickly as possible.

You will notice some changes to this year's [grant programs](#). We've merged some programs, adjusted the maximum amount available, and have initiated a policy to fully fund applications and make the available funds go as far as possible.

Further, we've redoubled our efforts to provide support to all applicants and are happy to help you discuss your ideas and answer your questions. Specifically, we've updated and expanded our grants help page to answer all the most common questions.

Thanks to feedback from the field, we have also restructured our informational presentations to focus on several specific areas of focus. The programs include a firsthand opportunity to hear about what [reviewers look for](#) when they consider grants on February 24. We're also offering a workshop focusing on our [Springboard program](#) for first time grant applicants on March 7. We'll be offering a workshop on [developing your budget](#) for a grant on March 3rd, and we've scheduled an opportunity to learn about the changes in our [arts education grants](#) on March 10th. All sessions are free, registration is required, and each session will also be recorded and made available on our grants help page.

Although our interesting times will likely continue for the foreseeable future, it's important for all of us - and all of our arts - to continue on.

I am always amazed at how the great writers can pinpoint a thought that is forever relevant. Years ago, when I was directing and producing Shakespeare, I constantly found unmistakable connections to current events no matter what play I was working on. To me, James Baldwin is another one of those writers whose work is always relevant. A quote of his came to mind the other day as I felt run down by the pandemic, politics, and all the weighty issues of 2022. In the early 1980s, he wrote a new introduction for his 1955 classic Notes from a Native Son. It seems it could have been just yesterday when he wrote: "I have been reminded I am what time, circumstance, history have made me, certainly. But I am also much more than that. So are we all." It's a great reminder to keep plugging away. We're rooting for you!

-David Greenham

EVENT REMINDER FEBRUARY 24

[Webinar: Tips on Writing A Successful Grant](#)

What makes a successful grant application? Let's ask the people who review them!

February 24, 2022 from 6 - 7

p.m. EST

[REGISTER](#)

The Maine Arts Commission presents a workshop for any grant applicant who wonders, "What exactly are they looking for?"

Join Program Director Martha Piscuskas and guests for a discussion about what makes a grant application stand out as a cut above the rest. We've assembled a stellar panel of grant reviewers, who are also artists themselves, to share their best practices and techniques for effective grant writing.

The virtual workshop is free and open to the public. The video will be available on demand as a resource for the 2022 grant cycle.

Featured Panelists:



Samaa Abdurraqib

Associate Director,
Maine Humanities Council



Nat May

Program Officer,
Onion Foundation



Sara Trunzo

Musical Artist and Organizational
Consultant

[Upcoming March Webinars](#)

March 3, 2022 | 6-7 p.m. March 7, 2022 | 6-7 p.m. March 10, 2022 | 6-7 p.m.

Creating A Budget For Your Grant

Learn useful practices in building your project budget and navigating

Artist Springboard Grant For First-time Applicants

This session is for emerging artists and individuals who are new to the grant writing

Grants for Arts Educators

This session highlights all the ways that individual teaching artists, schools, and community organizations can

the Arts
Commission budget form.
This session also focuses on
matching income - either
cash or in-kind - and making
sure your budget supports the
priorities outlined in your
grant application.

process. Learn about the
Maine Arts Commission grant
offerings, how to submit an
application--and how we can
help you prepare your
materials.

Learn More &
Register for Sessions

apply for Maine Arts
Commission grants. The goal
of this workshop is to
encourage eligible folks to
apply before our April 2022
deadlines. *Teaching Artists
do not have to be on the
Maine Arts Commission
Teaching Artist Roster to
apply!

To A Mainer Living 100 Years from Now

We asked Maine Poet Laureate Julia Bouwsma to bury a poem in the Bicentennial Time Capsule. It won't be opened for 100 years. This is what she wrote.



To a Mainer Living 100 Years from Now

The other day I stood beneath an ash tree as old as the time
between my writing this letter and you reading it.

Inside the green moment of the forest, I traced my finger
across the ash's trunk, grooved bark staggered like vertebrae,

a deer bent back to listen, quiet flanks reddening the stillness
before crouch became bolt and it leapt back into a lattice

of blackberry cane and brush. Tell me, unknown friend,
what has dissipated from our home and what remains?

Does it still snow hard enough to swallow your footsteps in light?
Do you drink sap each spring, boil your sorrow into new waft and gold?

We lived here at the edge of the old rituals, lived there
until we could not discern our hope from our fear—

wildfire smoke smeared a long low bruise, a language written
in billowing keloids and contrails, vanishing welts of vapor.

Are you still repeating our same old violences or have you learned
new ones? Can you wring a chicken's neck with your hands—twist

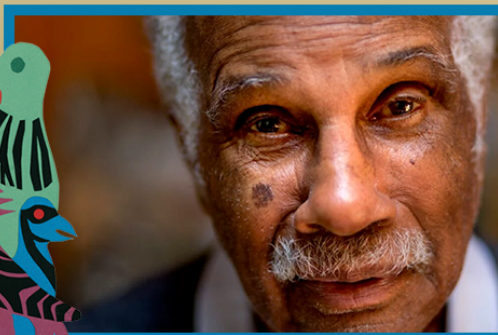
and pull the throat in unison as my grandmother's grandmother
did and I do now? Or have you colonized Mars, erected skyscrapers

of cosmic concrete? Scientists are at it now, discovering a building material
of human tears, sweat, urine, blood. It hardens fast and cheap, stronger

they say, than anything we've ever known before. For you I wish nothing
but birdsong. I wish you a pond of peepers screaming spring thaw.

And all those apple trees I planted—it's early autumn now,
their striated skins spreading blush into white flesh as they ripen—

do they still stand on this hill? Pick one for me, please, if they do.
Bite down among stippled wormholes and taste our blinding sweetness.



ASHLEY BRYAN - A GIANT AMONG US 1923 - 2022

Ashley Bryan, a renowned Maine artist, author and storyteller who created over 70 children's books, died at age 98 on February 4.

A celebrated author and illustrator, Bryan was the recipient of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Lifetime Achievement Award, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, several Coretta Scott King Awards, a Newbery Honor and countless other awards and recognitions.



In 2020, the Maine Arts Commission exhibited both an in-person and virtual gallery of Ashley Bryan's works at the State Capitol. In 2019, we produced a video with Ashley at his house on Little Cranberry Island.

Creative Aging training for organizations

The Maine Arts Commission is pleased to announce that we are again partnering with Lifetime Arts to provide a creative aging training. This six hour training will provide tools for hosting creative aging programs and working with teaching artists to ensure that quality arts programs are available for older Mainers.

Training Dates:

March 7, 8, 9 from 9 – 11 a.m.

In addition, the Maine Arts Commission is happy to once again offer Creative Aging funding through our competitive grants program. Grants of up to \$2,500 are available and the deadline for applications is April 7. We're happy to help answer questions as you develop your plan and prepare your application. Here's a link to the 2022 [Creative Aging Grant guidelines](#).

Thanks to a grant from the National Association of State Arts Agencies, we are able to offer a \$300 stipend to each participant.

Representatives of organizations are welcome to have two staff members apply and receive the stipend. Registration is first come, first serve.

REGISTER HERE



Maine Arts News & Opportunities

- [Acadian Arts Spring Retreats in Prospect Harbor](#)
- [Arts Are Elementary - Call To Artists, Brunswick](#)
- [Augusta Downtown Alliance - Call To Artists](#)
- [Gallery 263 - Call To Artists, Tip of The Tongue](#)
- [Western Arts Alliance Call For Applications Official Showcase](#)
- [Dancing Lessons - The Public Theatre, Lewiston](#)
- Get found: be sure to update your directory listing at [MaineArts.com](#), as well as at the New England Foundation for the Arts' [CREATIVE GROUND](#).

Events & Additional Opportunities

- [Works On Paper - An Exhibit of Paintings & Drawings, Richard Boyd Gallery](#)
- [King of Ragtime, with Stephen Constanza, Feb. 27, Camden Opera House](#)
- [Urinetown The Musical, USM Gorham, March 3 - 12](#)
- [Dancing Lessons - The Public Theatre, Lewiston March 11- 20](#)
- [Pretty Girls Sing Soprano, UUCB Concerts For A Cause, March 12](#)
- [The Gift of Languages, Book Talk with Dr. Kathleen Stein-Smith March 18](#)
- [Take 4 Presents: Water, Frontier Event Venue, Brunswick, March 25](#)
- [2022 NEA Jazz Masters Tribute Concert - March 31](#)
- [Disaster! A Musical Comedy, L/A Community Little Theatre, April 7](#)





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